

Appln. No. 09/522,185
Reply to final Office Action mailed Jan. 23, 2008
Response dated April 23, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12, 26, 38-49, 74, 91 and 175-192 were pending in the Application. Claims 26, 38-48, 74, 91, 179-182, 186 and 189 were allowed, claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 49, 175-178, 183-185, 187, 188 and 190-192 were rejected, and claims 7, 8 and 12 were objected to in the final Office action mailed January 23, 2008.

Claims 1, 3-12, 49, 175-178, 183-185, 187, 188 and 190-192 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants hereby expressly reserve the right to re-file canceled claims 1, 3-12, 49, 175-178, 183-185, 187, 188 and 190-192 in a later-filed continuing application.

New claims 193-195 are claims 7, 8 and 12 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

All claims remaining in the application were indicated as allowable subject matter in Points 6 and 7 on Page 16 of the January 23, 2008, final Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, and submit that the objections and rejections of the instant final Office Action have been obviated by the addition of claims 193-195 and the cancellations of claims 1, 3-12, 49, 175-178, 183-185, 187, 188 and 190-192. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 7, 8 and 12, and the rejections of claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 49, 175-178, 183-185, 187, 188 and 190-192 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Final Matters

In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding the claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. However, Applicants expressly reserve the right to challenge such

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statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statements should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

Conclusion

Applicants believe that all of pending claims 26, 38-48, 74, 91, 179-182, 186, 189 and 193-195 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree or have any questions regarding this submission, the Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (312) 775-8000.

A Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required by this submission to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 23, 2008

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